



US009465600B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Matthew et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,465,600 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Oct. 11, 2016**

(54) **DYNAMIC RETRIEVAL OF INSTALLATION PACKAGES WHEN INSTALLING SOFTWARE**

2509/10 (2013.01); Y10T 428/24 (2015.01);
Y10T 428/24372 (2015.01); Y10T 428/269
(2015.01); Y10T 428/31504 (2015.04); Y10T
428/31855 (2015.04)

(71) Applicant: **Apple Inc.**, Cupertino, CA (US)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

(72) Inventors: **Jack Matthew**, San Francisco, CA
(US); **John R. Chang**, Cupertino, CA
(US)

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(73) Assignee: **Apple Inc.**, Cupertino, CA (US)

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(21) Appl. No.: **14/178,091**

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(22) Filed: **Feb. 11, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0229932 A1 Aug. 14, 2014

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/768,658, filed on
Apr. 27, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,707,296.

Primary Examiner — Xi D Chen

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor
& Zafman LLP

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G06F 9/45 (2006.01)

G06F 9/445 (2006.01)

B32B 27/18 (2006.01)

B32B 7/02 (2006.01)

B32B 27/32 (2006.01)

B32B 27/34 (2006.01)

B32B 27/36 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC . **G06F 8/61** (2013.01); **B32B 7/02** (2013.01);

B32B 27/18 (2013.01); **B32B 27/32** (2013.01);

B32B 27/34 (2013.01); **B32B 27/36** (2013.01);

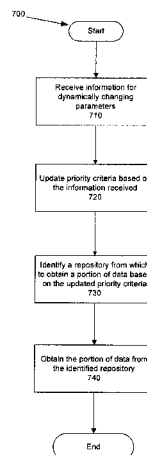
B32B 2264/10 (2013.01); **B32B 2307/726**

(2013.01); **B32B 2439/00** (2013.01); **B32B**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software is described herein. In one embodiment, a process can be provided to determine a specific installation package to be installed for software having one or more packages to be installed. A repository can be automatically identified from a plurality of repositories from which to obtain the specific installation package, based on priority criteria. The priority criteria can be based on dynamically changing parameters. The specific installation package can be obtained from the identified repository.

14 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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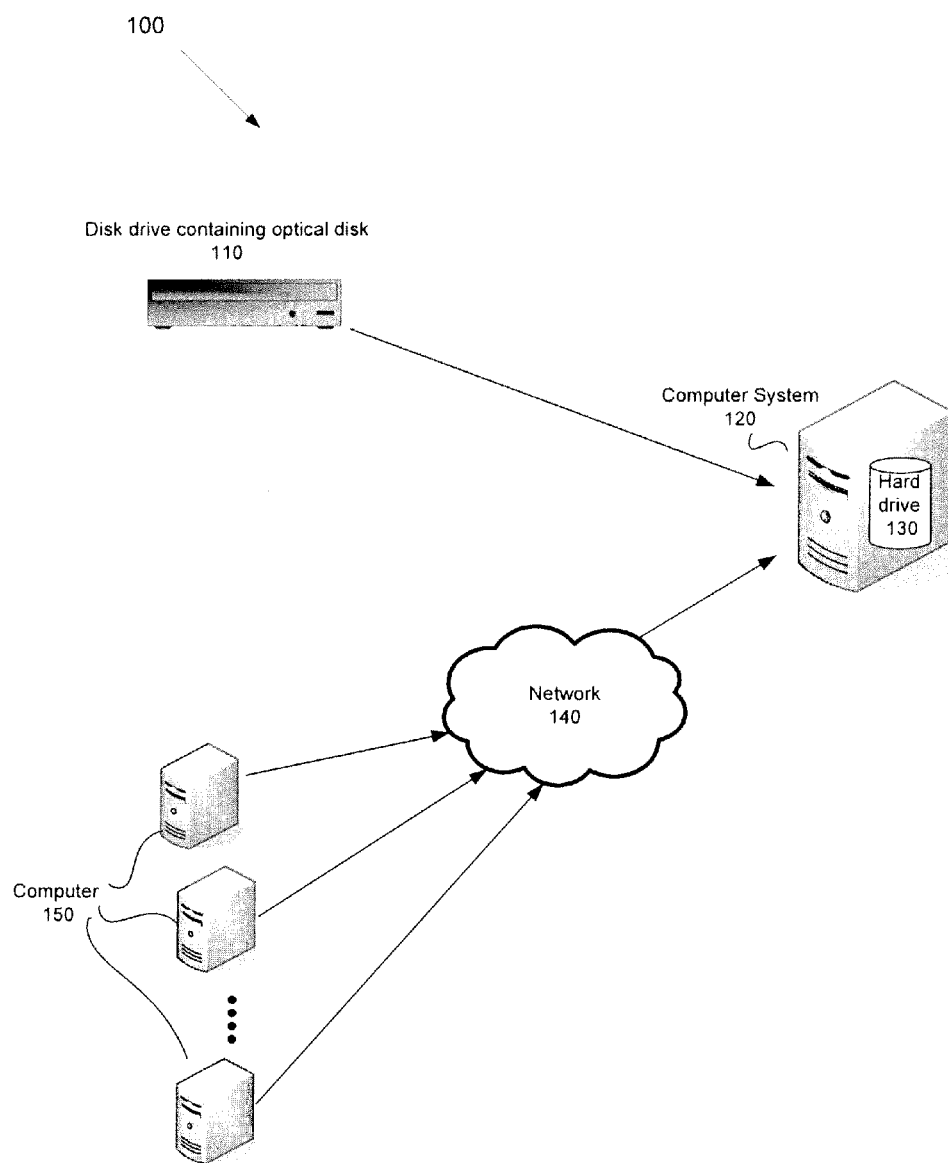


Fig. 1

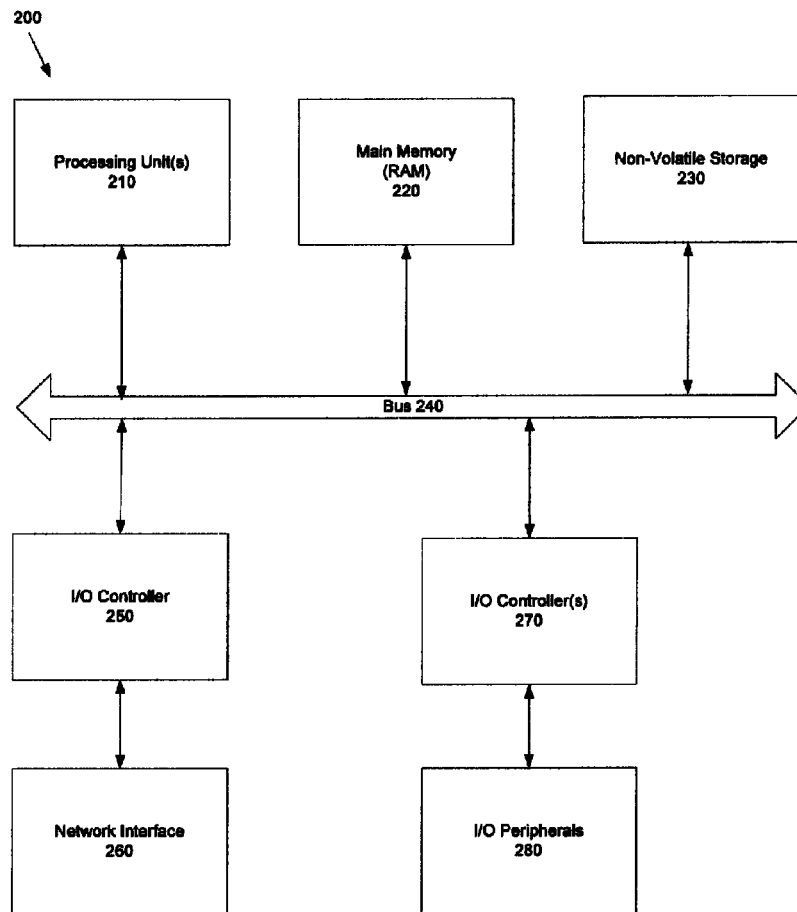


Fig. 2

300

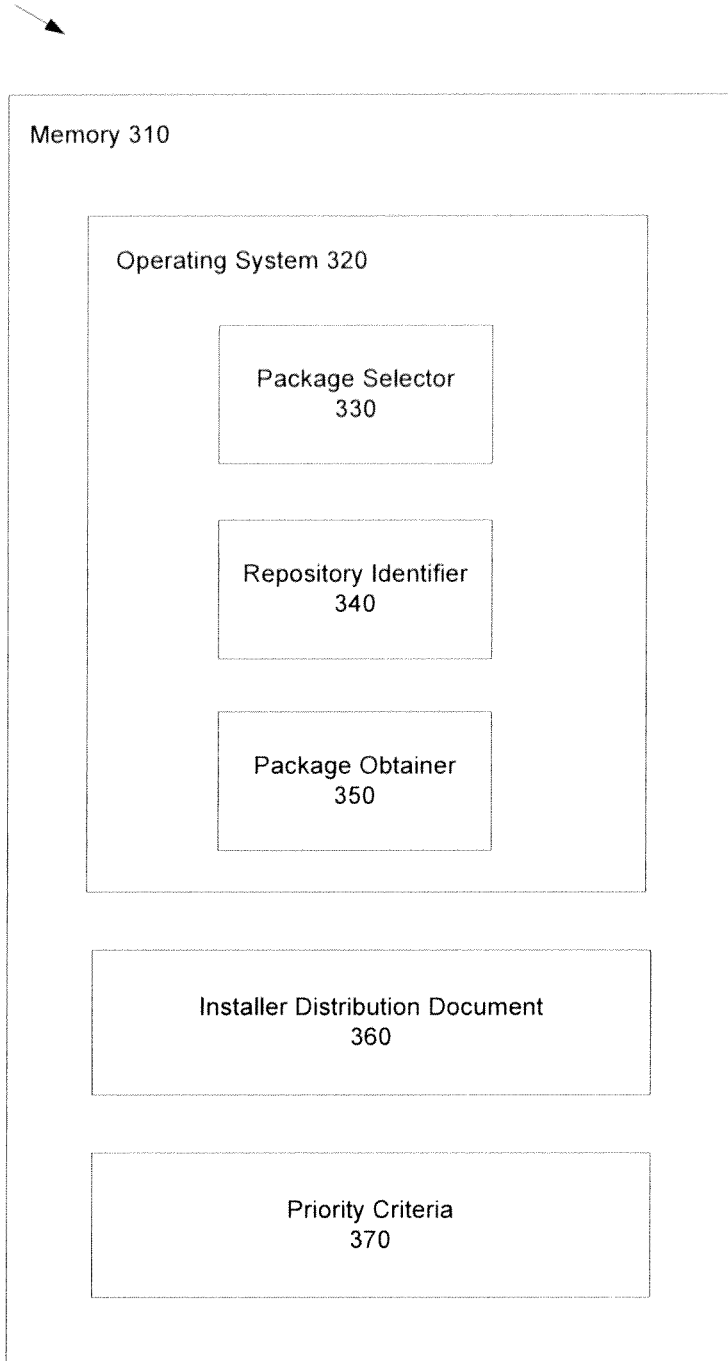


Fig. 3

400

410

412

420

430

422

432

Installer Distribution Document

Package Identifier	Package Version	Package Address
safari	4.0.2	http://server1.com
misc	6.0.1	http://server3.com
essentials	7.0	http://server1.com
m2il	5.0	http://m2il.server2.com

Fig. 4

500

510

512

520

522

Priority Criteria	
Repository	Data Rate (throughput/speed)
Local Area Network	10 gigabits/second
Optical drive	10 megabits/second
Hard drive	0.5 gigabit/second
Wide Area Network	1 gigabit/second

Fig. 5

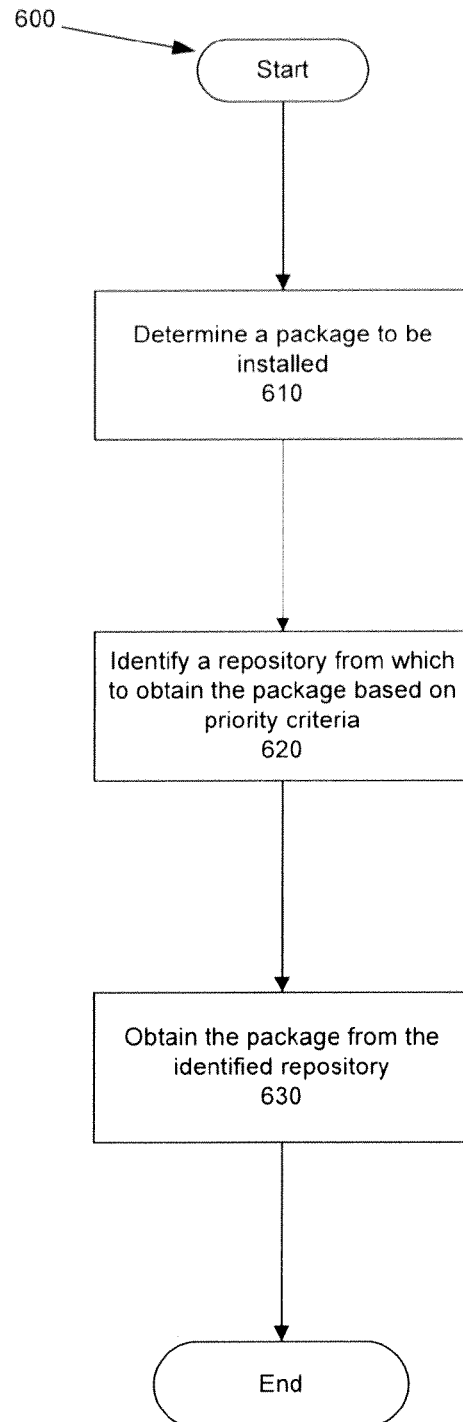


Fig. 6

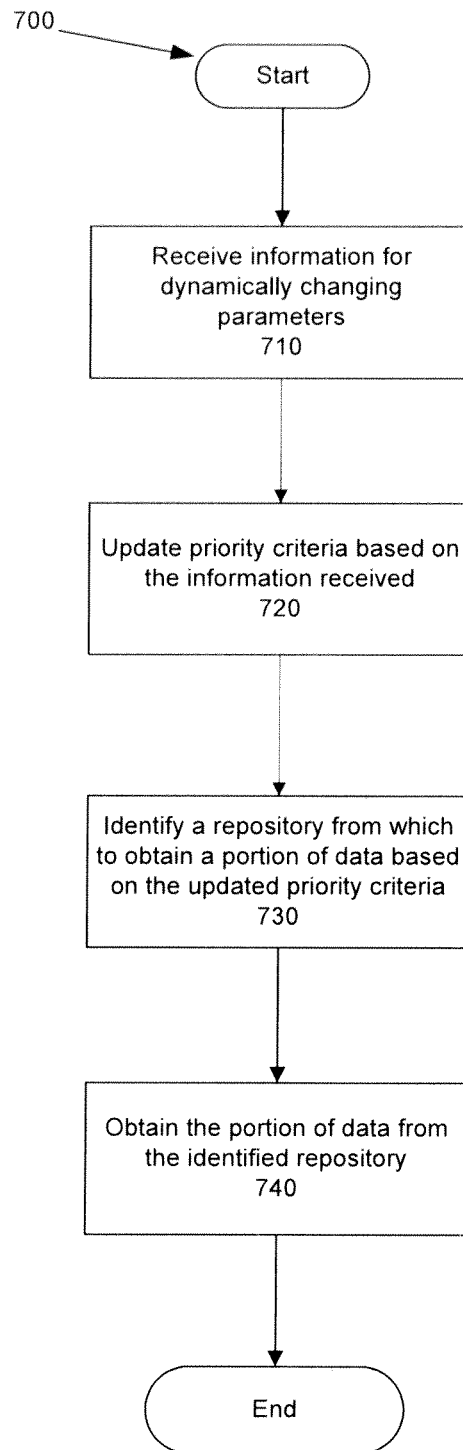


Fig. 7

DYNAMIC RETRIEVAL OF INSTALLATION PACKAGES WHEN INSTALLING SOFTWARE

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. application Ser. No. 12/768,658, filed on Apr. 27, 2010.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The field of invention relates generally to computing systems, and, more specifically, to dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software.

BACKGROUND

Software may be installed from a repository. There may be several repositories available from which the software can be installed. The software may be obtained faster from some repositories than others.

SUMMARY OF THE DESCRIPTION

Mechanisms for dynamical retrieval of installation packages when installing software are described herein. In one embodiment, a process can be provided to determine a specific installation package to be installed from one or more installation packages of software. An identification of a repository may be made from a plurality of repositories, based on priority criteria. The priority criteria may be based on dynamically changing parameters. The specific installation package may be obtained from the identified repository. Systems, methods, and machine readable storage media which perform or implement one or more embodiments are also described.

Other features of the present invention will be apparent from the accompanying drawings and from the detailed description which follows.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limited in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which like references indicate similar elements and in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary system architecture including an optical disk drive and one or more computers and computer systems connected over a network in which embodiments of the present invention may operate;

FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of an exemplary computer system in which embodiments of the present invention may operate;

FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary memory in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary installer distribution document in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary priority criteria in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 6 illustrates a flow diagram of a method of dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software in accordance with embodiments of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 illustrates a flow diagram of a method of dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following detailed description of embodiments of the invention, reference is made to the accompanying draw-

ings in which like references indicate similar elements, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that logical, mechanical, electrical, functional, and other changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention. The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the present invention is defined only by the appended claims.

Software to be installed on a system can include multiple packages. These packages may exist in different repositories (e.g., local hard drive, local optical disk, through a local area network, remote servers, etc.). A computing system may determine a specific package needed in order to install the software. If the specific package exists in multiple repositories, the computing system may determine which repository to obtain the specific package from. The determination may be based on priority criteria. In one embodiment, the priority criteria can be based on dynamically changing parameters. In one embodiment, the priority criteria indicate the fastest repository from which to obtain the specific package.

In one embodiment, information about the dynamically changing parameters can be received from other computing systems.

In one embodiment, if the specific package cannot be obtained from a determined repository, an alternate repository can be determined from which to obtain the specific package.

In one embodiment, a determination can be made if an updated version of the specific package exists. If an updated version of the specific package exists, the required version of the specific package may be updated prior to identifying a repository from which to obtain the specific package.

FIG. 1 illustrates a system architecture 100 in which dynamical retrieval of installation packages may be performed. System architecture 100 may include disk drive 110, computer system 120 and one or more computers 150. Computer system 120 may communicate with one or more computers 150 via network 140. Computers 150 may contain repositories (e.g., hard drives) from which installation packages may be retrieved. Disk drive 110 may contain an optical disk as a repository from which an installation package may be retrieved. Computer system 120 may contain hard drive 130. Hard drive 130 may be a repository from which an installation package may be retrieved.

In one embodiment, network 140 may be a public network (e.g., Internet) or a private network (e.g., local area network (LAN)). In one embodiment, computers 150 may include a broadcast server which broadcasts the availability of an installation package over network 140. Computer system 120 may determine whether the installation package needs to be installed and may then further determine whether to download the installation package from the broadcast server computer 150 over network 140. In one embodiment, computers 150 may transmit information related to dynamically changing parameters to computer system 120 over network 140.

In one embodiment of the present invention, disk drive 110 can communicate with computer system 120 in any number of protocols. For example, disk drive 110 can be an internal disk drive for computer system 120, connected via an Advanced Technology Attachment (ATA) or Serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) interface. In an

alternate embodiment of the present invention, disk drive **110** is connected to computer system **120** via a Universal Serial Bus (USB), a IEEE 1394 interface such as FireWire™ available from Apple, Inc. of Cupertino, Calif., or a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI). In yet another embodiment of the present invention, disk drive **110** communicates with computer system **120** via one or more networks. The networks may include a LAN, WAN, intranet, extranet, wireless network, the Internet, etc.

In one embodiment, computer system **120** may be able to determine information about dynamically changing parameters related to disk drive **110**.

In one embodiment, hard drive **130** is a local hard drive located within computer system **120**. In one embodiment, computer system **120** may be able to determine information about dynamically changing parameters related to hard drive **130**.

FIG. **2** is a block diagram of an exemplary computer system in which embodiments of the present invention may operate. Computer system **200** includes processing unit(s) **210**, main memory (RAM) **220**, non-volatile storage **230**, bus **240**, I/O controller **250**, network interface **260**, I/O controller **270**, and I/O peripherals **280**.

Main memory **220** encompasses all volatile or non-volatile storage media, such as dynamic random access memory (DRAM), static RAM (SRAM), or flash memory. Main memory **220** includes storage locations that are addressable by the processing unit(s) **210** for storing computer program code and data structures for dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software. Such computer program code and data structures also may be stored in non-volatile storage **230**. Non-volatile storage **230** includes all non-volatile storage media, such as any type of disk including floppy disks, optical disks such as CDs, DVDs and BDs (Blu-ray Disks), and magnetic-optical disks, magnetic or optical cards, or any type of media, and may be loaded onto the main memory **220**. Those skilled in the art will immediately recognize that the term “computer-readable storage medium” or “machine readable storage medium” includes any type of volatile or non-volatile storage device that is accessible by a processor (including main memory **220** and non-volatile storage **230**).

Processing unit(s) **210** is coupled to main memory **220** and non-volatile storage **230** through bus **240**. Processing unit(s) **210** includes processing elements and/or logic circuitry configured to execute the computer program code and manipulate the data structures. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that other processing and memory means, including various computer readable storage media, may be used for storing and executing computer program code pertaining to dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software.

Processing unit(s) **210** can retrieve instructions from main memory **220** and non-volatile storage **230** via bus **240** and execute the instructions to perform operations described below. Bus **240** is coupled to I/O controller **250**. I/O controller **250** is also coupled to network interface **260**. Network interface **260** can connect to a network to download software from a repository existing on the network, to receive information about dynamically changing parameters for repositories existing on the network, and to receive broadcast information from broadcast servers on the network regarding software which can be downloaded over the network.

Bus **240** is further coupled to I/O controller(s) **270**. I/O controller(s) **270** are coupled to I/O peripherals **280**, which may be mice, keyboards, modems, disk drives, printers and other devices which are well known in the art. I/O periph-

erals **280** can further include an optical drive which contains the optical disk with the software to be installed on computer system **200**.

FIG. **3** illustrates an exemplary main memory **220** of FIG. **2** in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Referring to FIG. **3**, memory **310** contains operating system **320**, installer distribution document **360**, and priority criteria **370**. Within operating system **320**, there is package selector **330**, repository identifier **340**, and package obtainer **350**. In other embodiments, the software components **330**, **340**, and **350** can be separate from and not part of an operating system. Although memory **310** has been shown as a single memory, this is just one illustrative embodiment. In alternate embodiments, memory **310** can be split into more than one memory.

In one embodiment, software to be installed may be made up of one or more installation packages. As used herein, the term “software” can be used in the singular or plural form. In one embodiment, the installation packages can contain the software to be installed on a system. In one embodiment, files can contain the software and these files may be compressed in the installation packages. In one embodiment, the installation packages can contain metainfo. In this embodiment, the metainfo can track the software to be installed and may also track the software that has already been installed. In one embodiment, each installation package may contain package information, which can describe the contents of the installation package. In one embodiment, the contents of the installation package can contain a payload, which can be the compressed representation of all software files to be installed. In one embodiment, the software can be an operating system. Package selector **330** can determine a specific installation package to install on the computing system. In one embodiment, package selector **330** can determine the installation package based on an installer distribution document for the software. The installer distribution document can include an identifier for each of the installation packages required for the software to be installed and can include a location from which to determine whether an updated version of the installation packages exist. In one embodiment, the installer distribution document can be installer distribution document **360**. In an alternate embodiment, package selector **330** can obtain the installer distribution document from operating system **320**. In yet another alternate embodiment, package selector **330** can obtain the installer distribution document from an installation media accessible to the computing system. In yet another alternate embodiment, package selector **330** can obtain the installer distribution document from another computing system over a network. In yet another alternate embodiment, package selector **330** can obtain information about the installation package from a broadcast server and may not access an installer distribution document.

In one embodiment, package selector **330** may determine whether an updated version of the installer distribution document exists and update the version of the installer distribution document prior to selecting a specific installation package to install. In an alternate embodiment, package selector **330** may determine whether an updated version of the specific installation package is available. If package selector **330** determines a newer version of the specific installation package is available, package selector **330** may update the version of the specific installation package to be obtained. Once the package selector **330** has determined a specific installation package to be obtained, package selector **330** may send a notification to repository identifier **340**.

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Repository identifier **340** can identify a repository from which to obtain a specific installation package. In one embodiment, multiple repositories exist which are accessible to repository identifier **340**. In one embodiment, these repositories can include a local disk, an optical drive, optical drives or disks located on one or more computers accessible over a network, and remote servers. In one embodiment, repository identifier **340** can identify a repository from which to obtain a specific installation package based on priority criteria **370**. In one embodiment, priority criteria **370** are used by repository identifier **340** to determine the fastest repository from which to obtain the specific package.

In one embodiment, priority criteria **370** can be pre-defined and can list an order in which to access the repositories. In this embodiment, for example, priority criteria **370** may cause repository identifier **340** to access the local hard drive first, the local optical disk second, a computer accessible over local area network third, and a remote server last. In alternate embodiments, priority criteria **370** may include alternate pre-defined orders for accessing of repositories. In another alternate embodiment, priority criteria **370** can be dynamic and may be based on dynamically changing parameters. In one embodiment, the dynamically changing parameters may include network throughput, the speed of a device such as an optical drive or disk, and the speed of a server. In one embodiment, repository identifier **340** can receive information regarding the dynamically changing parameters prior to identifying a repository. In one embodiment, the information regarding the dynamically changing parameters is stored in priority criteria **370**.

In one embodiment, prior to identifying a repository, repository identifier **340** may determine whether an updated version of the specific installation package is available. If repository identifier **340** determines a newer version of the specific installation package is available, repository identifier **340** may update the version of the specific installation. Repository identifier **340** may then identify a repository from which to obtain the updated version of the specific installation package based on priority criteria **370**. Repository identifier **340** may then send a completion notice to package obtainer **350** that the specific installation package can be obtained from the identified repository.

Upon receiving a completion notice from repository identifier **340**, package obtainer **350** can obtain the specific installation package from the identified repository. In an alternate embodiment, no completion notice is sent from repository identifier **340**. In this embodiment, package obtainer **350** can obtain the specific installation package from the identified repository without waiting for the completion notice. In certain embodiments, package obtainer **350** can be optional if the priority software is already installed on the system and does not need to be updated or overwritten.

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary installer distribution document **400** in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Installer distribution document **400** may be obtained from a local disk, an optical drive, from another system over a network, or from a remote server.

Referring to FIG. 4, installer distribution document **400** can contain a package identifier **410** for each of the installation packages required for software to be installed on the system. Each package identifier **410** can contain a corresponding package version **420** and a corresponding package address **430**. Package version **420** can correspond to which version of the package should be obtained from the repository. In one embodiment, package version **420** may be updated for a package when the system checks whether a

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newer version of the package exists. In one embodiment, package address **430** can specify the location to check in order to determine whether an updated version of the package exists. In one embodiment, package address **430** can specify the location to check in order to determine whether an updated installer distribution document **400** exists. In one embodiment, package address **430** can be a hard coded uniform resource locator (URL). In an alternate embodiment, package address **430** can be a generic URL for a server. For example, in one embodiment, installer distribution document **400** can require an installation package "m2il" (**412**) to be installed. The version for m2il (**412**) to be installed is version 5.0 (**422**). The server at package address "http://m2il.server2.com" (**432**) can be used to determine if there is a later version of the package than version 5.0.

FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary priority criteria **500** in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 5, priority criteria **500** can contain a list of repositories **510** accessible to the system. Each repository **510** can contain a corresponding data rate **520**. For example, wide area network **512** contains a data rate of 1 gigabit/second. In one embodiment, based on priority criteria **500**, a system can determine which repository **510** has the best data rate **520** and therefore, which repository **510** the system should use to obtain a specific installation package. In one embodiment, the repositories listed in priority criteria **500** can send updated information regarding their corresponding data rates to the system. This updated information can be stored in priority criteria **500**.

FIG. 6 illustrates a flow diagram of a method of dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. In one embodiment, dynamic retrieval of installation packages method **600** is performed by package selector **330**, repository identifier **340**, and package obtainer **350**.

Referring to FIG. 6, method **600** starts at block **610**. At block **610**, the process determines a package to be installed. In one embodiment, software to be installed may be made up of one or more packages. In one embodiment, files can contain the software and these files may be compressed in the packages. In one embodiment, the packages can contain metainfo. In this embodiment, the metainfo can track the software to be installed and may also track the software that has already been installed. In one embodiment, each package may contain package information, which can describe the contents of the package. In one embodiment, the contents of the package can contain a payload, which can be the compressed representation of all software files to be installed. In one embodiment, the software can be an operating system. In one embodiment, block **610** can determine the package based on an installer distribution document for the software. The installer distribution document can include an identifier for each of the installation packages required for the software to be installed and a location to check in order to determine whether an updated version of the installation packages exist. In one embodiment, the installer distribution document can be located in a memory of the computer system on which the software is to be installed. In an alternate embodiment, the installer distribution document can be located in the operating system of the computer system. In yet another alternate embodiment the installer distribution document can be obtained from an installation media. In yet another alternate embodiment, the installer distribution document can be obtained from another system over a network. In yet another alternate embodiment, block **610** can determine the package based on information

received from a broadcast server regarding the availability of the package, and may not access an installer distribution document.

In one embodiment, block **610** may determine whether an updated version of the installer distribution document exists and update the version of the installer distribution document prior to selecting a specific installation package to install. In an alternate embodiment, block **610** may determine whether an updated version of the specific installation package is available based on the information in the installer distribution document. If a newer version of the specific installation package is available, the version of the specific installation package to be obtained may be updated. The process then proceeds to block **620**.

At block **620**, a repository is identified from which to obtain the specific installation package. In one embodiment, the identification can be made based on priority criteria. In one embodiment, multiple repositories exist from which the package can be obtained. In certain embodiments, these repositories can include a local disk, an optical drive, optical drives or disks located on one or more computers accessible over a network (LAN, WAN, Internet, etc.), or a remote server.

In one embodiment, the priority criteria can be pre-defined and can list an order in which to access the multiple repositories. In this embodiment, for example, the priority criteria may identify the local hard drive first, the local optical disk second, a computer accessible over local area network third, and a remote server last. In alternate embodiments, the priority criteria may include alternate pre-defined orders for accessing of repositories. In yet another alternate embodiment, the priority criteria can be dynamic and may be based on dynamically changing parameters. In one embodiment, the dynamically changing parameters may include data rates for each of the multiple repositories (e.g., network throughput, the speed of a device such as an optical drive or disk, and the speed of a server). In one embodiment, information regarding the dynamically changing parameters may be received from the available repositories prior to identifying a repository. In one embodiment, the repository with the highest data rate (fastest) is identified as the repository from which to obtain the package from.

In one embodiment, prior to identifying a repository, block **620** may determine whether an updated version of the specific installation package is available. If an updated version of the specific installation package is available, the version of the specific installation package may be updated. Block **620** may then identify a repository from which to obtain the updated version of the specific installation package based on the priority criteria. The process then proceeds to block **630**.

At block **630**, the specific installation package is obtained from the identified repository. In one embodiment, if the identified repository is accessible over a network, the installation package can be obtained by downloading the package over the network. In one embodiment, if there is a problem with the identified repository and the package cannot be obtained from the identified repository (e.g., bad disk in optical drive, network is unavailable, hard drive fails, etc.), the process can return to block **620** to determine an alternate repository from which to obtain the package. In certain embodiments, once a repository is identified for a package, the identified repository can be used for obtaining all the packages corresponding to the software to be installed on the system (as may be listed in the installation distribution

document) and available from the identified repository, unless a problem arises with respect to the identified repository.

In certain embodiments, blocks **620** and **630** are optional and are not performed if the appropriate version of the identified package is installed on the system and does not need to be updated or overwritten. In certain embodiments, if blocks **620** and **630** are omitted, the process ends from block **610**.

Method **600** illustrates one implementation of dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software. In alternate embodiments, the order in which the blocks of method **600** are performed can be modified without departing from the scope of the invention.

FIG. **7** illustrates a flow diagram of a method of dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. In one embodiment, dynamic retrieval of installation packages method **700** is performed by package selector **330**, repository identifier **340**, and package obtainer **350**.

Referring to FIG. **7**, block **710** receives information for dynamically changing parameters. In one embodiment, the dynamically changing parameters may include data rates (e.g., network throughput, the speed of a device such as an optical drive or disk, and the speed of a server) for multiple repositories available to a computer system. In one embodiment, the multiple repositories may include a local disk, an optical drive, and optical drives or disks located on one or more computers accessible over a network (LAN, WAN, Internet, etc.), or a remote server. The process then proceeds to block **720**.

At block **720**, the process updates priority criteria for the repositories based on the information received. In one embodiment, the priority criteria can be determined based on the data rates for the repositories received. In one embodiment, the repository with the highest data rate can be the repository with the highest priority. In one embodiment, the data rates for the repositories can be used to determine the fastest repository from which to obtain data. The process proceeds to block **730**.

At block **730**, a repository is identified from which to obtain an updated portion of data based on the updated priority criteria. In one embodiment, the repository with the fastest data rate can be the repository with the highest priority, and therefore can be identified as the repository from which to obtain the package from. The process then proceeds to block **740**.

At block **740**, the portion of data is obtained from the identified repository. In one embodiment, if the identified repository is accessible over a network, the installation package can be obtained by downloading the package over the network. In one embodiment, if there is a problem with the identified repository and the portion of data cannot be obtained from the identified repository (e.g., bad disk in optical drive, network is unavailable, hard drive fails, etc.), the process can return to block **730** to determine an alternate repository from which to obtain the portion of data. In certain embodiments, once a repository is identified for a portion of data, the identified repository can be used for obtaining all data available from the identified repository for the system unless a problem arises with respect to the identified repository.

In certain embodiments, blocks **730** and **740** are optional and are not performed if the portion of data is located on the system and does not need to be updated or overwritten. In certain embodiments, if blocks **730** and **740** are omitted, the process ends from block **720**.

Method 700 illustrates one implementation of dynamic retrieval of installation packages when installing software. In alternate embodiments, the order in which the blocks of method 700 are performed can be modified without departing from the scope of the invention.

The methods as described herein are not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the present invention as described herein. Furthermore, it is common in the art to speak of software, in one form or another (e.g., program, procedure, process, application, module, logic, etc.), as taking an action or causing a result. Such expressions are merely a shorthand way of saying that execution of the software by a computer causes the processor of the computer to perform an action or produce a result. It will be further appreciated that more or fewer processes may be incorporated into the methods 600 and 700 in FIG. 6 and FIG. 7 respectively without departing from the scope of the invention and that no particular order is implied by the arrangement of blocks shown and described herein.

It is to be understood that the above description is intended to be illustrative, and not restrictive. Many other embodiments will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reading and understanding the above description. The scope of the invention should, therefore, be determined with reference to the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.

The invention claimed is:

1. A machine-implemented method for installing software, the method comprising:
 - determining, by a computing system, a specific installation package to be installed, the software having one or more installation packages to be installed;
 - automatically identifying a repository from a plurality of repositories from which to obtain the specific installation package, wherein the identification is based on priority criteria, and the priority criteria is based on dynamically changing parameters; and
 - obtaining the specific installation package from the identified repository, wherein the dynamically changing parameters include a network throughput, a data rate of a repository of a wide area network and a data rate of a local storage device of the computing system.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving, through a network, information about the data rates for the plurality of repositories includes one or more of a network throughput, a speed of a device, and a speed of a remote server.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - responsive to an unsuccessful obtaining of the specific installation package, identifying an alternate repository from which to obtain the specific installation package.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of repositories comprises at least two of a local disk, an optical drive, a disk or drive available through a local area network (LAN), and a remote server.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - dynamically determining whether an updated version of the specific installation package exists.
6. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium comprising executable instructions to cause a processing system to perform operations for installing software, the operations comprising:
 - determining, by a computing system, a specific installation package to be installed, the software having one or more installation packages to be installed;

automatically identifying a repository from a plurality of repositories from which to obtain the specific installation package, wherein the identification is based on priority criteria, and the priority criteria is based on dynamically changing parameters; and

obtaining the specific installation package from the identified repository, wherein the dynamically changing parameters include a network throughput, a data rate of a repository of a wide area network and a data rate of a local storage device of the computing system.

7. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 6, wherein the operations further comprise:

receiving, through a network, information about the data rates for the plurality of repositories includes one or more of a network throughput, a speed of a device, and a speed of a server.

8. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 6, wherein the operations further comprise:

responsive to an unsuccessful obtaining of the specific installation package, identifying an alternate repository from which to obtain the specific installation package.

9. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 6, wherein the plurality of repositories comprises at least two of local disk, an optical drive, a disk or drive available through a local area network (LAN), and a remote server.

10. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 6, wherein the operations further comprise: dynamically determining whether an updated version of the specific installation package exists.

11. An apparatus comprising:

means for determining, by the apparatus, a specific software installation package to be installed, the software having one or more installation packages to be installed;

means for automatically identifying a repository from a plurality of repositories from which to obtain the specific installation package, wherein the identification is based on priority criteria and the priority criteria is based on dynamically changing parameters; and

means for obtaining the specific installation package from the identified repository, wherein the dynamically changing parameters include a data rate of a repository of a wide area network and a data rate of a local storage device of the apparatus.

12. The apparatus as in claim 11, additionally comprising means for identifying an alternate repository from which to obtain specific installation package in response to unsuccessfully obtaining of the specific installation package, the alternate repository identified based on the priority criteria and the priority criteria additionally includes a data rate of a repository on a remote server.

13. A computer system comprising:

a memory; and

a processor configurable by instructions stored in the memory to:

determine, by the computer system, a specific software installation package to be installed, the software having one or more installation packages to be installed;

based on priority criteria, automatically identify a repository from a plurality of repositories from which to obtain the specific installation package, the priority criteria based on dynamically changing parameters; and

obtain the specific installation package from the identified repository, wherein the dynamically changing

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parameters include a network throughput, a data rate of a repository of a wide area network and a data rate of a local storage device of the computer system.

14. The computer system as in claim 13, the processor additionally configurable by the instructions stored in 5 memory to identify an alternate repository from which to obtain the specific installation package if the specific installation package is unsuccessfully obtained from the identified repository, the alternate repository identified based on the priority criteria, wherein the priority criteria additionally 10 includes a data rate of a repository on a remote server.

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